

CORRESPONDENCE

Subject of Following Letter: Request of National Committee on Costs of Medical Care for Copies of September California and Western Medicine.

To the Editor—We should like to distribute to the members of the Committee on the Costs of Medical Care and to a few other especially interested persons reprints of "The Medical Economics Symposium" which appeared in CALIFORNIA AND WESTERN MEDICINE in September, 1931. For this purpose we need seventy-five copies.

Do you have such reprints available for distribution?

Sincerely yours,

ALDEN B. MILLS.

Executive Secretary.

910, Seventeenth Street, Washington, D. C.

Editor's Note.—This request for the interesting "Medical Economics" symposium unfortunately reached California and Western Medicine after the edition had been exhausted. The request is here reprinted because it is a compliment to the official journal of the California Medical Association and its contributors.

Subject of Following Letter: New San Francisco Health Regulation to Aid in Prevention of Food Poisoning.

To the Editor—I am enclosing regulation passed by the Board of Health at my request and because of the attached investigations by my associates and myself.* You will note that two of these outbreaks were in hospitals, and we deemed the matter so important that the regulation is necessary. Needless to say it will be absolutely enforced.

Sincerely,

J. C. GEIGER, M. D.,
Health Officer.

SAN FRANCISCO HEALTH DEPARTMENT REGULATION.

"It shall be unlawful for any person, firm, association, or corporation within the limits of the city and county of San Francisco to manufacture, import, offer for sale, to sell or distribute, or to use, any living culture or preparation of bacteria, or of any other group of microorganisms potentially dangerous to man, for the purpose of destroying rats, other rodents, or vermin."

Subject of Following Letter: Memorandum From Director of Public Health of San Francisco Concerning an Executive Order Prohibiting Sale of a Certain Depilatory.

To the Editor—For your information I am sending you herewith copy of a communication sent to the *Journal of the American Medical Association* relative to a depilatory named Koremlu.

Sincerely,

J. C. GEIGER, M. D.,
Director.

The item is as follows:

"As a result of a dinner with a number of the leading dermatologists practicing in San Francisco, and the editorial in the *Journal of the American Medical Association* with reference to Koremlu, a depilatory containing thallium acetate, may I state that its sale was forbidden in

* Editor's Note.—The enclosure was a copy of Reprint No. 1489 from the Federal Public Health Reports (for sale by the Superintendent of Documents, Washington, D. C., at five cents per copy), having the caption: Three Outbreaks of Food Poisoning Apparently Due to B. Enteritidis, B. Paratyphosus B (Aërtrycke Type), and B. Paratyphosus A, Respectively.

San Francisco by an executive order of the Director of Public Health. Very few protests were made, one in particular being made by the representative of the firm who was at the time present in San Francisco. Despite his vigorous protests, the order remains as originally issued."

Subject of Following Letter: Comments on Doctor Adelstein's Article in February California and Western Medicine, Page 121.

To the Editor—The department of CALIFORNIA AND WESTERN MEDICINE entitled "Medicine Today" has often proved of interest. The contraction of related reviews of various books and articles with an editorial comment presents some difficulty; when well done by a man of sufficient experience to discuss editorially the subject-matter, the item is of great value.

In the article entitled "Physiologic Limitations of Surgery of the Sympathetic Nervous System" by Leo J. Adelstein of Los Angeles, the undisputed fact of smooth muscle relaxation, both in visceral conditions such as Hirschsprung's disease or of vasospasm in certain vascular affections, is clearly pointed out.

Workers, such as Royle, Von Lackum, and Stewart, of broad and intimate experience with cases of spastic paralysis, dating from months and years before as well as after various operations, have repeatedly demonstrated the increased surface temperature of the hands and feet following sympathectomy with a variable improvement in the incoordination defect. It is curious that the most renowned physiologist of our times states so positively that sympathectomy is without physiologic justification apparently because Royle's hypothesis as to the explanation for the improvement has been disproved. It seems obvious that no difference as to the why and wherefore should be permitted to obscure observable phenomena. It is a simple physiologic fact that our muscles do not work as well when chilled as when thoroughly warm. Two years ago Doctor Stewart advanced the suggestion that the improvement in circulation following sympathectomy was the basis of the clinical improvement, easily observed in many cases if the examiner has an intimate knowledge of what the patient can do before as well as after operation.

The article, then, unfortunately denies the existence of phenomena which have been observed in many hundreds of patients. And this by men who have had extremely little clinical experience in the condition, as far as knowing the patient before and after operation.

It is to be hoped that difference of opinion as to the theoretical explanation of phenomena will not indefinitely obscure the importance of adequate observation as to the presence or absence of such phenomena.

Yours very truly,

VERNON P. THOMPSON.

Subject of Following Letter: Suggestion that Pacific Coast Physicians Who Are Interested Form a Medical Art Club.

To the Editor—On communicating with six medical art clubs of the East I find that many medical men on the Pacific Coast are sending their paintings, etchings, and sculpture to various annual exhibits of these various art clubs.

Dr. E. B. Krumbhaar of the University of Pennsylvania, in discussing this fact, very wisely suggested: "I should think that it would be so expensive for your doctors on the Pacific Coast to pay for insurance and transportation of your works of art back here to our eastern cities that it would be better and more interesting for you to organize a similar club and exhibit in California."

Now there are some fifty doctors, including Washington, Oregon, California, Utah, Colorado, and Arizona, who devote their spare time to one of these art hobbies and many of these medical artists are really doing very meritorious work.